WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A terminal device comprising:

a control section for controlling the terminal device;

a first real-time clock which is built in the control section; and

a second real-time clock which is provided outside the control
section, wherein:

the control section obtains information from the first real-time
clock when the terminal device is in a first operation mode, and

the control section obtains information from the second real-time
clock when the terminal device is in a second operation mode.

2.   A terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second
real-time clock is directly connected to the control section by a signal line.

3.   A terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second
real-time clock is connected to the control section via a functional device.

4.   A terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second
real-time clock is built in a functional device which is connected to the
control section.

5.   A terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
information obtained from the second real-time clock is transferred to the
first real-time clock and thereafter the control section obtains the
information from the first real-time clock.

6.   A terminal device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the
information of the first real-time clock is restored by use of the
information transferred from the second real-time clock.

7. A terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control section and the second real-time clock are powered by different power sources.

8. A terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information at least includes time information and date information.

9. A terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the first operation mode is enabled when the control section is operating normally, and

the second operation mode is enabled when the control section

5   recovered from failure.

10. A terminal device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control section is implemented by a microcomputer which is built in the terminal device.

11. A method for controlling a real-time clock of a terminal device, comprising the steps of:

a mode judgment step for judging whether the terminal device is in a first operation mode or a second operation mode;

5   a first information obtaining step in which a control section of the terminal device obtains information from a first real-time clock which is built in the control section if the terminal device is in the first operation mode, and

a second information obtaining step in which the control section

10   obtains information from a second real-time clock which is provided outside the control section if the terminal device is in the second operation mode.

12.   A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the second real-time clock is directly connected to the control section by a signal line.

13.   A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the second real-time clock is connected to the control section via a functional device.

14.   A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the second real-time clock is built in a functional device which is connected to the control section.

15.   A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the information obtained from the second real-time clock is transferred to the first real-time clock and thereafter the control section obtains the information from the first real-time clock.

16.   A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the information of the first real-time clock is restored by use of the information transferred from the second real-time clock.

17.   A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the control section and the second real-time clock are powered by different power sources.

18.   A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the information at least includes time information and date information.

19.   A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:
the first operation mode is enabled when the control section is operating normally, and
the second operation mode is enabled when the control section recovered from failure.

20.   A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the control section is implemented by a microcomputer which is built in the terminal device.